

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to resolve an issue raised by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 112 and to include recitations based on, e.g., the disclosure of the production process beginning at page 8 and the disclosure in the Examples in the present application.

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

Art Rejection

On page 2 of the Office Action, in paragraph 2, claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Gerard '134, JP '939 or WO '049.

In response, Applicants submit initially that the present invention's "coated carbon nanotubes" are carbon nanotubes coated or wrapped by aromatic condensation polymer.

In this regard, as is understood from the present specification, a feature of the production method of the present invention's coated carbon nanotubes is that monomers/polymers and carbon nanotubes are reacted, and the resulting reaction product is dissolved in an organic solvent or acidic solvent and filtered and isolated.

Accordingly, the claims have been amended to recite this feature involving the reaction of monomers/polymers and carbon nanotubes to produce a reaction product.

In contrast, the prior art references are only directed to the composition/mixture of carbon nanotubes and polymers.

Thus, Applicants submit that the significant difference between the present invention and the prior art is clear. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph

On page 3 of the Office Action, in paragraph 4, claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

In response, and to expedite allowance, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite coated carbon nanotubes, **which are carbon nanotubes** coated with

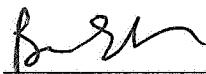
Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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